

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 080937
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INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 080937

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 29 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

1. DAVID SHIPLER OF NEW YORK REPORTS, IN DISPATCH FROM
MOSCOW, REPORTED THAT GEORGI A. ARBATOV, "ONE OF SOVIET
LEADERSHIP'S MOST TRUSTED ANALYSTS OF U.S.," HAD WRITTEN
THAT DETENTE IS AT CROSSROADS. WRITING IN PRAVDA, ARBATOV,
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE ON U.S.A. AND CANADA STUDIES AND
MEMBER OF COMMUNIST PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, SAID UNLESS
U.S. STOPPED VACILLATING ON SALT TREATY AND MADE TOUGH
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 080937

POLITICAL DECISIONS NECESSARY TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT,
RELATIONS BETWEEN USSR AND U.S. WOULD DETERIORATE AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY WOULD BE ENDANGERED. SHIPLER SAID
ARBATOV ARTICLE WAS "GRIM PORTRAYAL OF STATE OF SOVIET-
AMERICAN RELATIONS." ARBATOV, HE POINTED OUT, SAID THESE
RELATIONS HAD BEEN "SLIDING BACKWARD." HE MADE AN URGENT
APPEAL TO U.S., WHICH HE BLAMED FOR ALL THESE PROBLEMS,

SHIPLER REPORTED. SAYING THIS "IS CROSSROADS OF SORTS IN HISTORY OF DETENTE," ARBATOV WROTE THAT ARMS TALKS "DEPEND TODAY NOT SO MUCH ON SKILL OF NEGOTIATORS AS ON FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL DECISIONS OF U.S. ADMINISTRATION ON WHETHER TO

CONCLUDE AGREEMENT AT THIS MOMENT AT ALL." NEW TREATY, ARBATOV SAID, COULD OPEN WAY FOR "MORE RADICAL ACCORDS THAT WOULD PERMIT FURTHER ADVANCE TOWARD ENDING STRATEGIC ARMS RACE AND TOWARD CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION OF SUCH ARMS."

2. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID ARBATOV COMMENTARY "ATTRACTED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION FROM SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS BECAUSE IT COINCIDES WITH WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE MAJOR STOCK-TAKING BY KREMLIN ON CARTER ADMINISTRATION." HE SAID THIS MAJOR 3,400 WORD ARTICLE CLEARLY SIGNALS WHAT KREMLIN LEADERSHIP WANTS TO CONVEY. PRAVDA ARTICLE, IN EFFECT, REPRESENTED AN EXTENSIVE RESPONSE TO CARTER'S WAKE FOREST SPEECH, "INTENDED TO PIN RESPONSIBILITY ON U.S. FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD," MARDER SAID. HE POINTED OUT THAT "NATURE AND PROMINENT DISPLAY OF ARTICLE SIGNIFIED AN IMPORTANT COMMUNIST PARTY PRONOUNCEMENT RATHER THAN VIEWS OF JUST ONE INDIVIDUAL OR SOVIET INSTITUTE. AMERICAN SPECIALISTS IN MOSCOW AND IN WASHINGTON CONSTRUED ARTICLE AS SIGNIFICANT SIGN THAT SOVIET UNION WAS SIGNALING THAT ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S. ARE AT IMPORTANT JUNCTURE

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PAGE 03 STATE 080937

AND COULD LEAD IN EITHER DIRECTION. 'THEY DON'T LIGHTLY TALK ABOUT BEING AT CROSSROADS,' SAID SENIOR U.S. SPECIALIST ON SOVIET AFFAIRS." MARDER SAID "IN UNUSUALLY DIRECT TERMS, ARTICLE DEPICTED CARTER ADMINISTRATION AS TORN BETWEEN TWO KINDS OF POLITICAL FORCES IN U.S., ONE FORCE 'BUILDING UP TENSION,' OTHER DISPLAYING 'STRONG TENDENCIES TOWARD DETENTE.'" ARBATOV SAID BASIC PROBLEM FOR U.S. IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD SALT NEGOTIATIONS IS RELUCTANCE TO RECONCILE ITSELF TO MILITARY PARITY, MARDER REPORTED. MARDER RECALLED THAT NUMEROUS ADMINISTRATION SOURCES HAVE SAID IN PRIVATE THAT IN RECENT MONTHS IT WAS SOVIET UNION WHICH MADE MOST CONCESSIONS FOR PROGRESS IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS. "SOME OFFICIALS ARGUE THAT SOVIET UNION WAS MOVING FROM MOST EXTREME POSITION, WHILE OTHERS CREDIT IT WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY," MARDER ADDED. "PRESIDENT CARTER RECENTLY HAVE NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO U.S. NEGOTIATORS TO ACCELERATE DRIVE FOR COMPROMISE, INSTRUCTIONS WHICH PRIVATELY ENCOURAGED MOST STAUNCH ADMINISTRATION ADVOCATES OF ARMS CONTROL."

3. HENRY TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT TEAM OF SENIOR DIPLOMATS "SET OUT URGENTLY" MONDAY TO REASSURE

AMERICAN ALLIES ON EUROPEAN ISSUES AS SOVIET UNION INCREASES PRESSURE IN ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. TREWHITT SAID TEAM HAS TWO IMMEDIATE GOALS: "TO PREVENT AN IRREVERSIBLE DRIFT IN RELATIONS WITH TURKEY AND TO WIN ALLIED SUPPORT FOR DELAY IN PRODUCTION OF AN IMPORTANT NEW WEAPON, SO-CALLED NEUTRON BOMB." TEAM IS MADE UP OF DEPUTY SECRE-

TARY WARREN CHRISTOPHER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE VEST AND DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR MATTHEW NIMETZ. TREWHITT QUOTED INFORMED SOURCES AS SAYING TEAM'S FIRST OBJECTIVE "WILL BE TO SOOTHE TURKISH GOVERNMENT." MISSION IN BONN AND LONDON "MAY BE EVEN MORE AWKWARD," TREWHITT NOTED. CHRISTOPHER TEAM "MUST EXPLAIN TO THEM ADMINISTRATION REASONS FOR DELAYING DECISION ON ENHANCED RADIATION, OR UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 STATE 080937

NEUTRON BOMB. ONE REASON, ACCORDING TO DEFENSE SPECIALIST, IS MR. CARTER'S RELUCTANCE TO ORDER PRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPON AS UNITED NATIONS PREPARES FOR DEBATE ON ARMS CONTROL IN MAY." TREWHITT REPORTED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN "WERE SAID TO BE PREPARING TO SPEAK OUT FOR PRODUCTION WHEN U.S. CHANGED POLICY. AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID CHANGE DOES NOT IMPLY ABANDONMENT. BUT THOSE WHO WOULD COMMENT YESTERDAY DID NOT SUGGEST WHEN MOOD MIGHT BECOME RECEPTIVE AGAIN."

4. JIM ANDERSON OF UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL REPORTED THAT FORMER SALT NEGOTIATOR PAUL NITZE RELEASED HIS OWN SUMMARY OF RECENT AGREEMENTS IN SECRET U.S.-USSR SALT NEGOTIATIONS AND SAID IT SHOWS LITTLE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. ANDERSON SAID NITZE "DREW SHARP CRITICISM FROM ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS LAST NOVEMBER WHEN HE PUT OUT HIS FIRST UNOFFICIAL SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL BARGAINING ON BOMBER AND MISSILE ARSENALS. ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS SAID THAT FIRST SUMMARY APPEARED TO BE ACCURATE IN ALL ITS MAJOR POINTS, HOWEVER." RELEASING HIS UPDATED REPORT TUESDAY, NITZE TOLD REPORTERS "REMARKABLE THING IS HOW LITTLE CHANGE THERE HAS BEEN IN SUBSTANTIAL NEGOTIATIONS SINCE NOVEMBER." ANDERSON SAID NITZE'S VIEW CONTRADICTS THAT OF PRESIDENT CARTER AND AMBASSADOR WARNKE, WHO HAVE PREDICTED FINAL AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED IN FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR. MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCKS TO NEW SALT ACCORD, ANDERSON SAID, HAVE INCLUDED SOVIET EFFORTS TO RESTRICT NUMBER AND RANGE OF U.S. CRUISE MISSILES, U.S. EFFORTS TO DO SAME FOR USSR'S BACKFIRE BOMBER, AND U.S. ATTEMPTS TO LIMIT RIGHT OF SOVIETS TO UPGRADE CERTAIN INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES. ACCORDING TO NITZE'S SUMMARY, ANDERSON SAID, NO MAJOR PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN ANY OF THESE AREAS. COOPER

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